

Hacking Gender Constructions

...
or how to set up biased
gender constructions
in 10 steps

Presentation & Workshop

TransHackFeminist (THF!) 2014

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Overview

Presentation

- **How are sex & gender constructed?**
- What does „hacking“ mean (here)?

Workshop

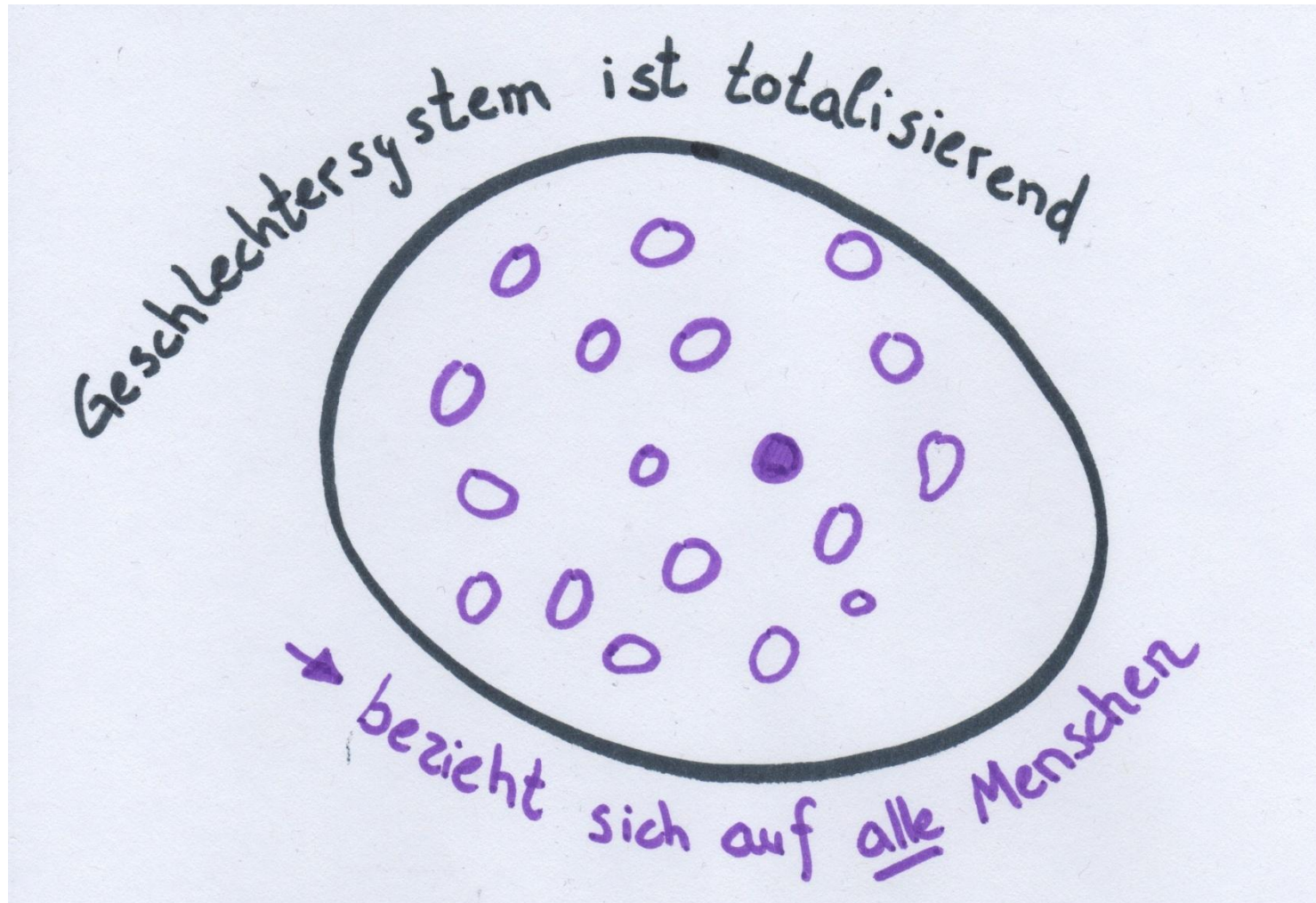
- **(How/where) do you want to hack gender constructions?**



!Gender is only ONE system of the social differences which structure society and identities – it always intersects with other systems like racism, classisms, ableism and others!

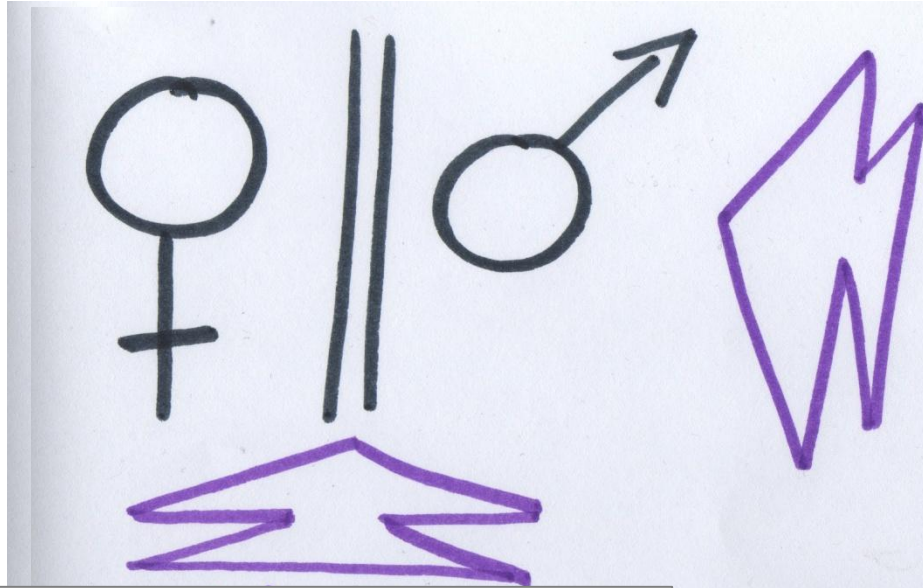


Step #1: install totalitarianism



The system of sex & gender is applied to everybody

Step #2: create binaries

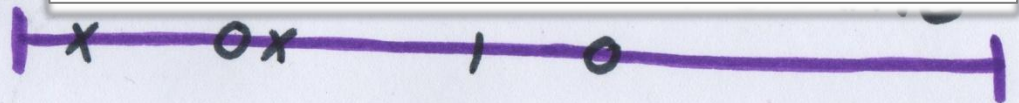


**The classification into
„male“ & „female“
is a construct!**
→ made up
by norms & values

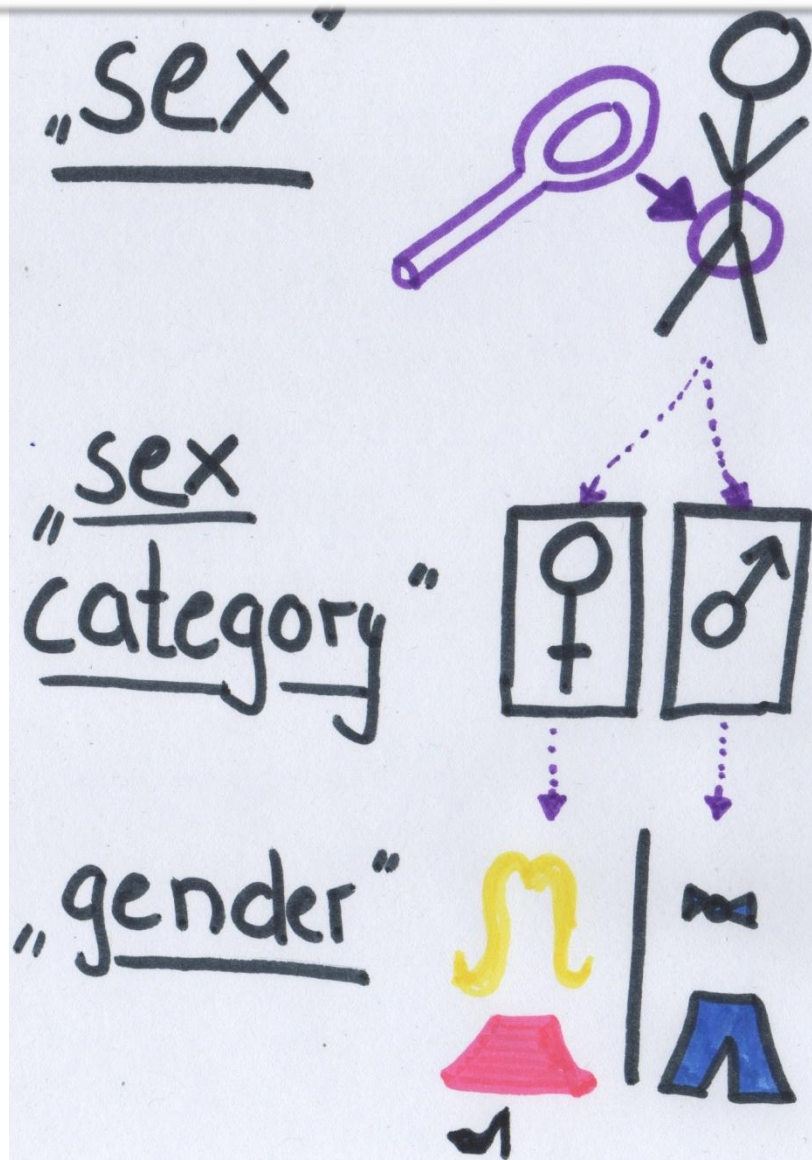
**Biologically not clear (no
unambiguous assignment)**

- Chromosomes
- gonads (testicles, ovaries)
- body shape
- specifics in the brain
- ...

are rather gradual differences



Step #3: apply binary categories



Attribute for distinction

Assignment according to attribute

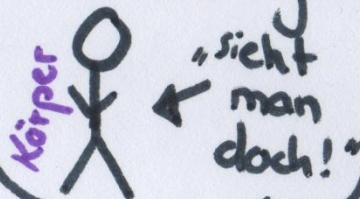
Gender roles

Step #4: learning to ,see` only two categories

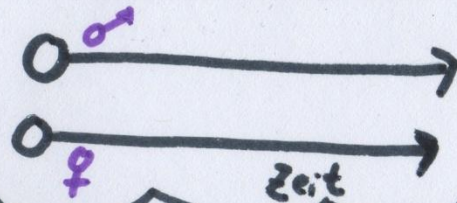
→ 3 basic (axiomatic) assumptions

(grundlegende,
nicht begründete)

„it's natural“



„it's constant“



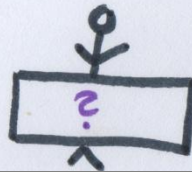
„it's binary“



„either - or“

Step #5: learning to ,be read' as member of one category

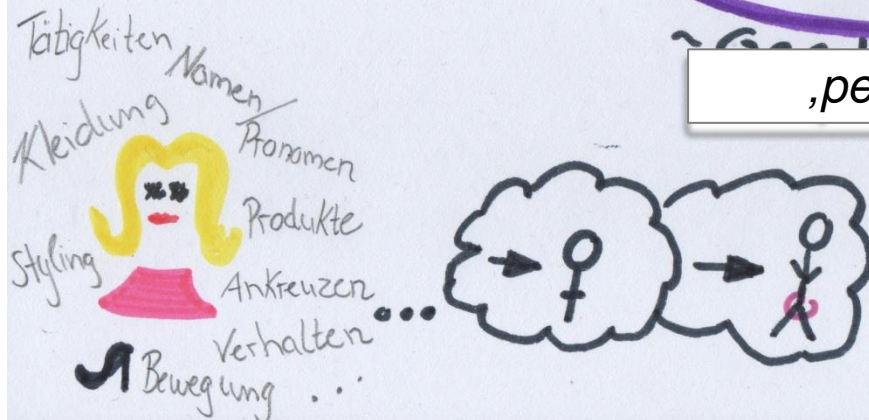
Basic attribute for distinction
invisible in daily life:



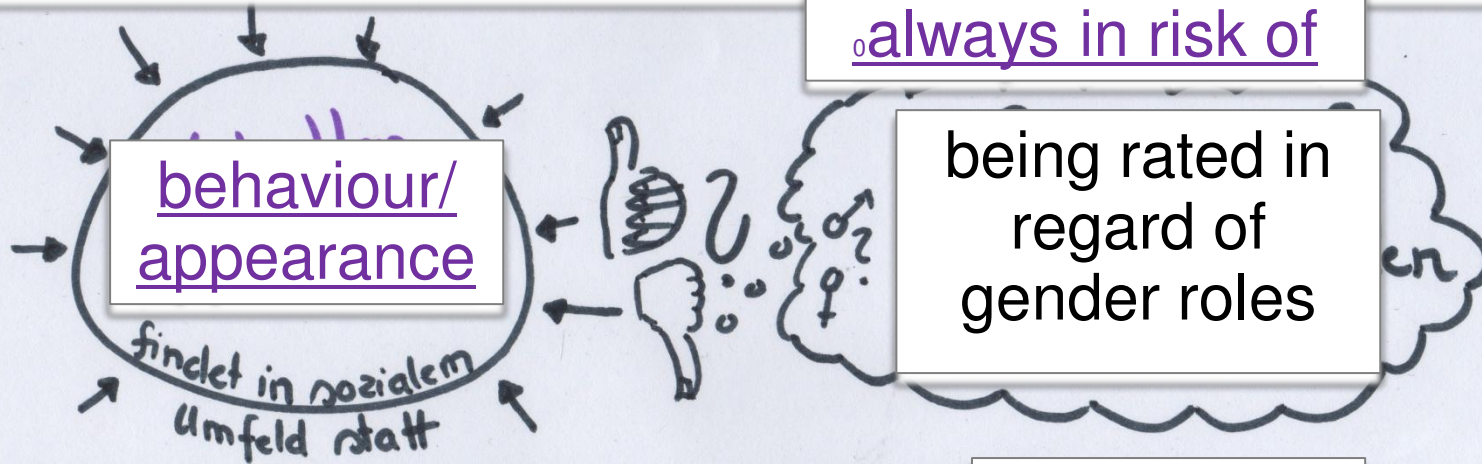
→ *making gender assignment visible:*

„Doing Gender“

‘performing gender roles’



Step #6: rating people related to gender assignment



takes place in social
envoronment

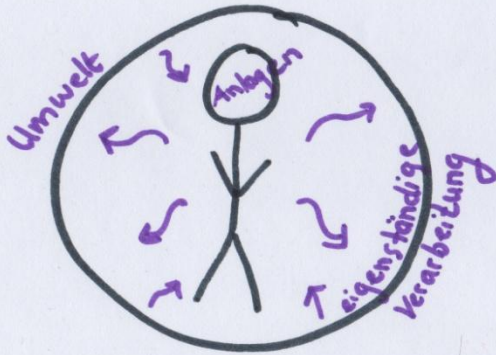
+ is rated!

Gender
doesn't have to be relevant,

but

Step #7: teaching people ,right` behaviour related to gender assignment

(Gender-) Socialisation:



through interactions:

- letting them copy you
- reactions/rating
- showing
- rules
- daily routines
- addressing, naming
- ...

through institutions:

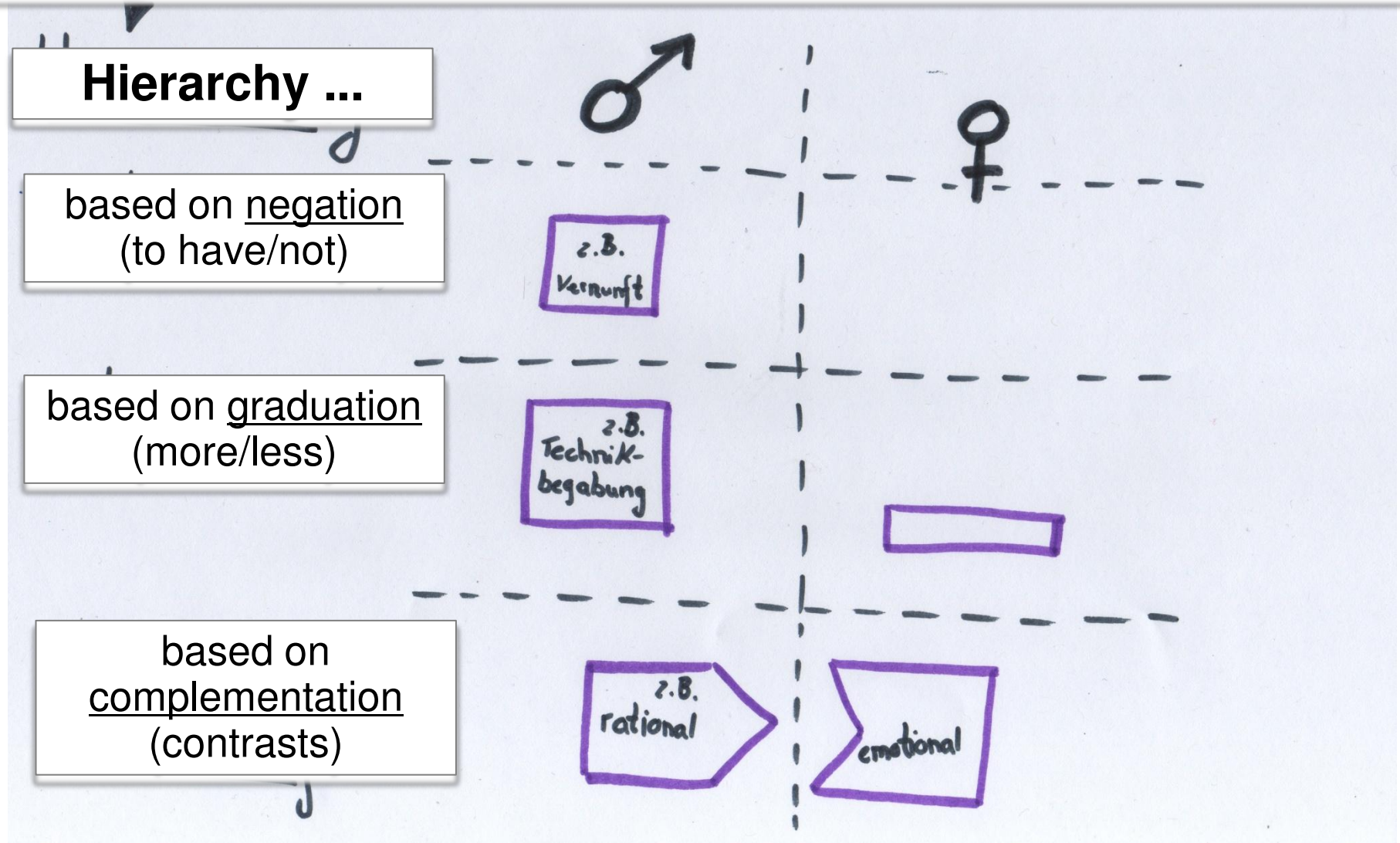
- „parallel organisation“ ...

→ WC
symbolisch

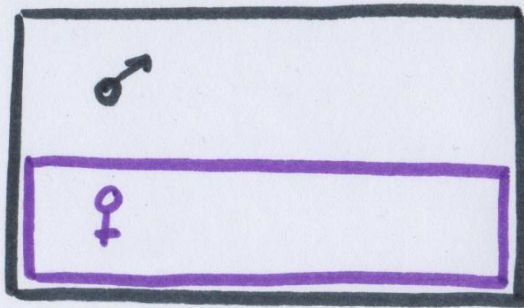


- pictures
- stories
- language ...

Step #8: Make binaries asymmetric (rated unequal)



Step #9: represent binaries asymmetric (systematically)



two parts (of a binary) form a whole,
but one of them represents both

≡

labelled/ unlabelled elements:



→ =

man
human

„Schüler“ → = männlich
= alle



→ =

woman

„Schülerin“ → = weiblich

(Zitat: Nemitz 2001)

Step #10: represent binaries asymmetric
(quantitative)

ANDROCENTRIC

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feminist

→ e.g. bechdeltest as a tool

What does ,hacking' mean here?

Tech Model Railroad Club (Massachusetts
Institute of Technology):

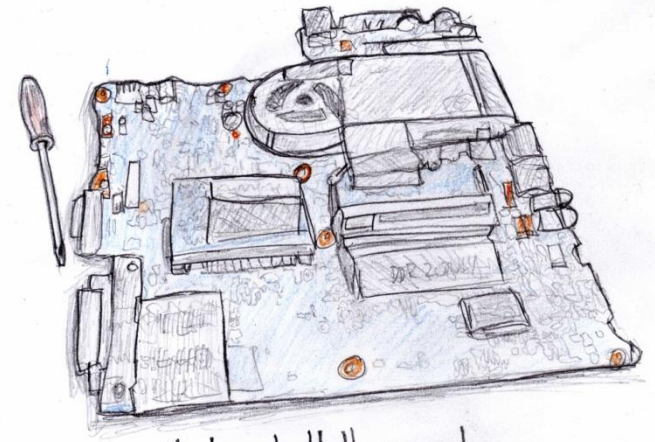
„,hacker' ... someone who applies
ingenuity to create a clever result,
called a ,hack'."

<http://tmrc.mit.edu/hackers-ref.html>

Chaos Computer Club:

„disrespectful and creative usage of
technology in daily life" (Lehnhardt 1988,
s.92) - which can imply ,social
engineering'.

HOW I MET
YOUR MOTHER **BOARD**



don't trust Hollywood.
Verhältnisse auseinander nehmen.
Den Dingen selbst auf den Grund gehen.



22/07/11

What does ,hacking' mean (here)?

→ self-determined

abnormal/deviant

examination

of given objects/structures

and (successful) intervention in these

,Hacking' means finding **extraordinary ways of solution** – even and especially for **problems the majority is not aware of** – because they are **part of the unquestioned**, part of the system'.

,Hacking' means taking **joy in playing with the allowed and the forbidden**, in **crossing boundaries of norms** and conventions, in **autonomous exploring**, in **questioning**, **reinterpreting and reclaiming what is given**.



How to set up biased gender constructions in 10 steps:

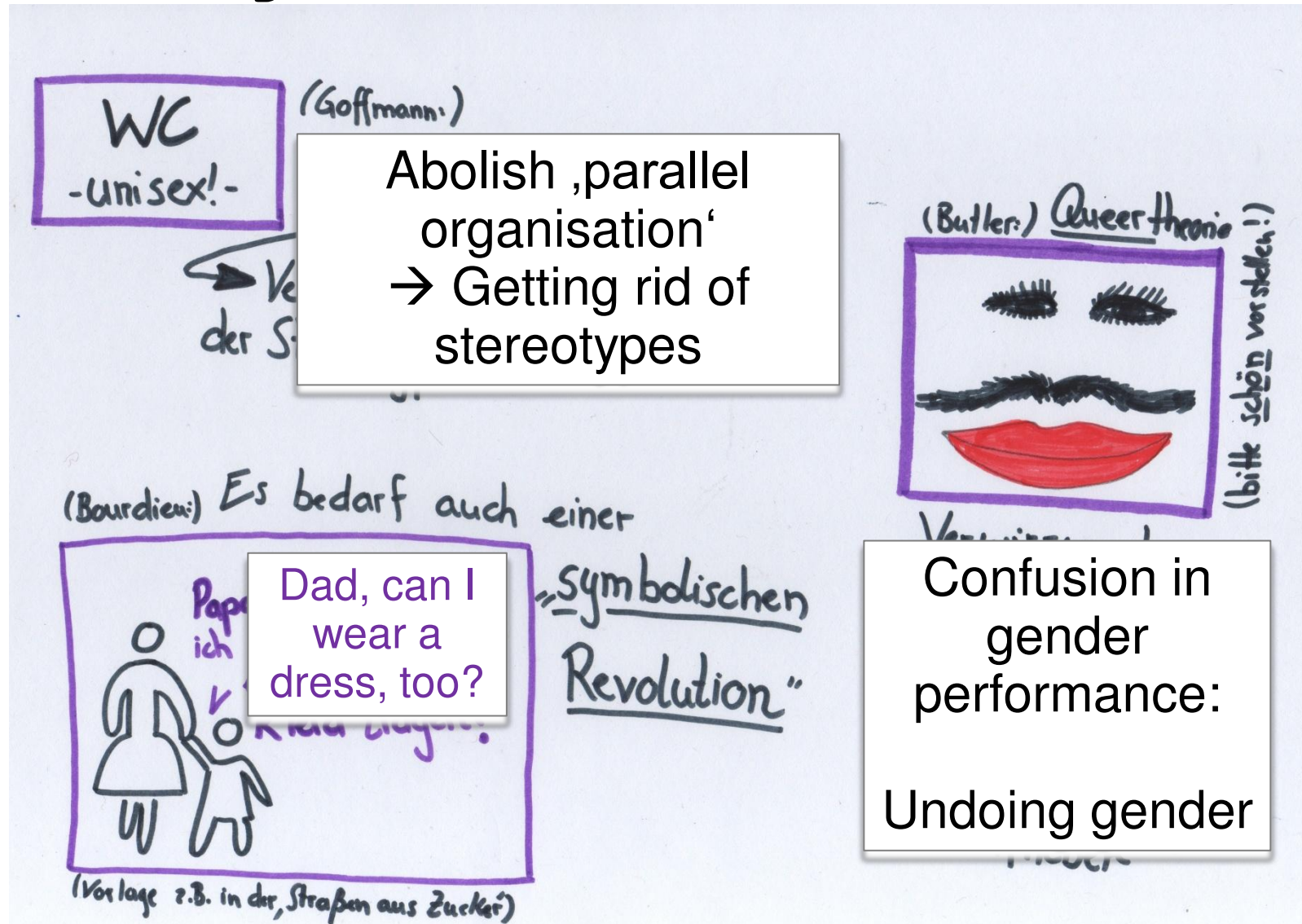
- Step #1:** install totalitarianism
- Step #2:** create binaries
- Step #3:** apply binary categories
- Step #4:** learning to ,see` only two categories
- Step #5:** learning to ,be read` as member of one category
- Step #6:** rating people related to gender assignment
- Step #7:** teaching people ,right` behaviour related to
gender assignment
- Step #8:** Make binaries asymmetric(rated unequal)
- Step #9:** represent binaries asymmetric(systematically)
- Step #10:** represent binaries asymmetric(quantitative)

How to set up biased gender constructions in 10 steps:

- Step #1: install totalitarianism
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- Step #5: learning to 'be read' as member of one category
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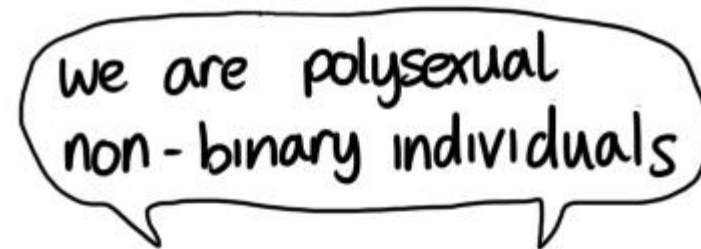
**Hacking the shit
— make it queer!**

Some thoughts on hacking Gender constructions ...



Hack the shit!





we are a queer couple
able to reproduce

I am
non-binary.
I go by they/them
Pronouns.



How you
LOOK
OR **DRESS**
DOESN'T DEFINE your
GENDER!!



YOU CAN BE A MAN WHO KICKS ASS IN A SKIRT OR A WOMAN WHO ROCKS HER BEARD.



(YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A WOMAN OR A MAN EITHER, OF COURSE!)

**(How/where)
do you want
to hack gender
constructions?**



Nachlesen/Quellen:

Lauras Hausarbeit: www.heterosexismushacken.blogspot.de → Material

wissenschaftliche Texte:

- Faulstich-Wieland, Hannelore (2004): Doing Gender: Konstruktivistische Beiträge. In: Glaser, Edith, Klika, Dorle, Prengel, Annedore (Hrsg.): Handbuch Gender und Erziehungswissenschaft. Bad Heilbrunn/Obb.: Klinkhardt, S. 175-190.
- Faulstich-Wieland, Hannelore (2003): Einführung in Gender-Studien. Opladen: Leske und Budrich.
- Nemitz, Rolf (2001): Frauen/Männer, Kinder/Erwachsene. Online: URL: http://www.pedocs.de/volltexte/2010/2620/pdf/Nemitz_Rolf_Frauen_Maenner_Kinder_Erwachsene_D_A.pdf (letzter Zugriff: 01.11.2013).
- Picture: disabled trans PoC lives matter: http://38.media.tumblr.com/8248f529cff67a29d0fe51f141669bce/tumblr_n81sjqxf0G1rq2jfuo3_1280.jpg
- Picture: look or dress doesn't define your gender: <http://gender-dragon.tumblr.com/post/85125060159>
- Picture: non binary: http://38.media.tumblr.com/ddc1370ae9eb493562515772ab4f5771/tumblr_n63b4h46fn1sphx81o3_1280.png
- Picture queer couple: <http://pokemoneggs.tumblr.com/post/55292389677/can-we-stop-referring-to-all-sex-that-could>
- Picture: some women have penises: <http://ts4.explicit.bing.net/th?id=HN.607991060945044019&pid=15.1&H=214&W=160>